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# SCIENCE

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## AUDUBON AND HIS JOURNALS.

THE memory of Audubon is dear to the hearts of the American people. The vigor and versatility of his writings, the eminence he attained as a naturalist, and his high personal character won him the admiration of his contemporaries and made

him an honored son in the land of his adoption. Born at an opportune time and transported to the New World when still a lad, he undertook and accomplished one of the most gigantic tasks it has ever fallen to the lot of one man to perform. Although for years deflected from the course Nature had laid out for him, and tortured by half-hearted attempts at a commercial life against which his restive spirit rebelled, he finally broke loose from his bondage and devoted the remainder of his days to the grand work which has made his name immortal.

Audubon was a man of phenomenal powers of endurance and indomitable courage; his determination, perseverance and force of character are shown by the way he overcame seemingly insuperable obstacles. Is it not extraordinary that a person of his humble means should not only complete such an unparalleled series of paintings but should cross the ocean, make friends and admirers of noblemen and leading men of science, and succeed, in spite of the enormous cost, in bringing out in colors an atlas of 435 double elephant folio plates of birds?

His magnificent contributions to the natural history of the New World have not been surpassed. The best known of these is the *Birds of America*.\* The equally

\*The plates were originally issued in 87 parts, covering a period of twelve years (1827-1838). The